

R E M A R K S

The abstract is objected to as being in an improper format and for use of unacceptable language. The abstract has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and is presented on a separate sheet. The applicant respectfully submits that the objection has been satisfied and requests that it be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to the drawings of the application as not being included with the PCT application. Presented herewith are 10 A4 soft sheets of formal drawings, figures 1-23. In view of the submission of formal drawings applicant respectfully submits that the objection has been satisfied and requests that it be withdrawn.

Claims 23-44 are objected to on the informalities mentioned in the paragraph *Claim Objections* pages 2-3 of the Office Action. Claims 23-44 were formally amended according to the Examiner's suggestions to remedy the mentioned informalities. Based on the above comments and amendments, applicant respectfully submits that the objections are satisfied and request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 25, 26, 31, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, and 44 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons stated in the paragraph *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112* pages 3-5 of the Office Action. Claims 25, 26, 31, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, and 44 have been formally amended to remove any indefiniteness problems that previously existed. Based on the above mentioned

comments and amendments, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection has been satisfied. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claim 23 is rejected as fully met by Welch 4,783,114 on the grounds set forth in the paragraph *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102* pages 5-6 of the Office Action. The door construction according to Welch (US 4,783,114) refers to a panel 14 and a panel 28 ("trim panel"), between which panels in a usual manner the foam 26 is situated. Column 2, lines 19 to 23, in Welch, shows the trim panel 28 overlies the foam (energy absorbing member 26). Further, there is stated in column 3, lines 8 to 11, that the energy absorbing member 80 maybe moulded in situ in the support panel 74. This means, that there is first the support panel 74 and only then is the foam moulded - in situ - thereon. Welch neither discloses or suggests an integrally produced door internal element as in the present claimed invention. In the present claimed invention, the door internal element is made of foam injected, not moulded foam as in Welch. Moreover, such integrally produced element of the present claimed invention has in a cross section two solid boundary layers and a foamed porous central layer, unlike the construction of Welch. In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been satisfied and applicant request that it be withdrawn.

Claims 24-44 are rejected, as unpatentable over Welch 4,783,114 in view of Kidd 4,848,829 for the reasons stated in the paragraph *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103* pages 6-7 of the Office Action. Kidd (4,848,829) is cited to show different elements being molded into a foam element within a door. It is respectfully submitted

that Kidd (4,848,829) when taken alone, or in combination with Welch (4,783,114) adds nothing that would make the present claimed invention unpatentable. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been satisfied and applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In the event there are further issues remaining in any respect the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes".

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted
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by: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patent & Trademark, Washington D.C. 20231, on January 11, 2002.

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USA National Stage Patent Application
PCT/EP99/00750 filed February 5, 1999
Eduard Brück
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INTERNAL ELEMENT FOR A DOOR
Examiner: Curtis Cohen
Group art unit: 3634

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 38 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 23-37 and 39-44 as follows:

23. [Door] A door internal element (3)
for motor vehicle doors (1), to be arranged between a door outer
side and an inner lining (7), [a sealing body (12) being disposed
at an edge,] wherein the door internal element (3) is produced by
foam [injected] injection, and with respect to a cross section of
the door internal element has two solid boundary layers (52) and
a foamed, porous central layer (54) whereby a sealing body is
part of the internal door element and disposed at an edge
thereof.

24. [Door] The door internal element
according to claim 23, further comprising cable holders (17)
moulded onto the door internal element (3).

25. [Door] The door internal element
according to claim 23, further comprising a mounting collar (31)

for holding a loudspeaker (32), wherein said mounting collar is moulded on the door internal element.

26. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, further comprising a cable bushing (21) [which is moulded out].

27. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 26, wherein the cable bushing (21) has an edging (24) made of soft plastic.

28. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, wherein the door internal element (3) has a moulded-in bush (26).

29. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, wherein the door internal element (3) further comprising [has] an inserted support plate (36) for mounting a motor (37).

30. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 29, wherein the support plate (36) is a metal plate.

31. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, wherein the door internal element (3) has bridges (45) which are moulded [out] by injection-moulding [and] thereby exposing an underside (46) of the bridges [is exposed].

32. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, further comprising a partial wall offset (49) in the door internal element (3) for receiving [as a laying path for] a strip[-like] insert (51).

33. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, wherein the sealing body (12) is formed as a bead, and said bead is applied to a wide face (55) of the door internal element (3).

34. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, wherein the sealing body (12) is located in a groove, said groove [an] integrally formed [groove] in the internal door element (57).

35. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 34, wherein the groove (57) is formed by [means of] a wall offset so as to mould [out] a foam injection-formed bead (58) on a rear side of the internal door element [constituting another wide face (59)].

36. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, wherein density of the door internal element (3) varies over a cross section between 0.7 and 1.4 g/cm³ in an unfoamed boundary layer (52) and is between 0.1 and 0.6 g/cm³ in the foamed central layer (54).

37. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, wherein the foam injection-formed material contains a proportion of high melting strengths [an HMS] polymer.

39. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, further comprising anchoring apertures (60) provided on an end face, said anchoring apertures have a solid hole lining (61) lying in a direction of the apertures [as a result of integral moulding-out].

40. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, further comprising an anchoring aperture (60) surrounded by an integrally foamed tab section (62) which projects on an end face.

41. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, further comprising inserts such as bushes and threaded inserts, [and the like] said inserts incorporated in the door internal element (3) by injection moulding therearound.

42. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, wherein a predetermined amount of [some] material is removed [or a cut which does not extend completely through is made in] from the door internal element (3), said predetermined amount of material extends partially through the door internal element (3) [on a wide face side], so as to provide access to the central layer (54) of lower-density.

43. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, wherein exposed regions of the central layer (54) serve as access for anchoring means (64).

44. [Door] The door internal element according to claim 23, further comprising clips (71) secured in the door internal element (3), [leaving an integral outer skin] wherein the position of said clips do not affect the outer skin of the internal door element.